



NATIONAL
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STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Week of: June 12 - 18, 2006

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CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 18, 2006

Scattered showers continued this week in many areas of the Commonwealth, while other areas became increasingly dry. Days suitable for field work were 5.3. Average precipitation remained below normal at 1.46 inches, and average temperature was a below-normal 68 degrees. Alberto provided rainfall to some areas, and even some flooding in the Virginia Beach area. Overall, the recent rains did not provide enough moisture to completely offset the previous months of dry conditions. Lack of moisture and warm temperatures have slowed pasture growth, with continuously grazed pastures in especially troublesome condition. Although some pastures and hay fields have improved, producers fear that the feed from these fields may fall short of cattle needs. The first cutting of hay is almost complete. Hay quality is reported to be good, but yields are reported to be low. Reports show corn and soybean crops are off to a good start. Where rain occurred, the crops benefited, while elsewhere crops are beginning to show signs of stress. Tomato plants are maturing, and many summer vegetables are beginning to ripen. Other farm activities this week included spraying herbicides, baling straw, scouting fields, and preparing for fall vegetable planting.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
May 21, 2006	4	22	71	3
May 28, 2006	8	30	61	1
June 4, 2006	9	40	51	0
June 11, 2006	14	45	41	0
June 18, 2006	17	35	46	2

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING JUNE 18, 2006

WEATHER STATION	TEMPERATURE (degrees Fahrenheit)				PRECIPITATION (inches)		
	HI	LO	Average	Departure from	TOTAL	Departure from	Days
NORTHERN							
Woodstock	87	46	65	-7	0.79	0.05	3
Warrenton	88	51	68	-4	0.42	-0.42	2
Winchester 7 SE	90	43	65	-6	0.31	-0.6	2
Dale Enterprises	89	49	65	-6	0.54	-0.12	3
WESTERN							
Glasgow	89	52	68	-4	1.5	0.8	3
Roanoke AP	89	53	70	-3	0.47	-0.23	3
Waynesboro	87	50	65	-5	0.56	-0.07	3
Staunton AG	87	42	66	-3	0.47	-0.16	2
CENTRAL							
Charlottesville	89	51	68	-5	0.82	-0.02	3
Piedmont Res ST	89	54	68	-4	0.65	-0.12	3
Bremo Bluff	91	49	69	-4	1.57	0.73	2
Richmond AP	89	55	70	-5	1.47	0.66	4
EASTERN							
Eastville	86	59	69	-5	2.06	1.36	4
Wallops Island	83	57	69	-6	3.04	2.41	4
Williamsburg	87	53	70	-4	2.43	1.52	2
Keysville	92	53	70	-2	0.63	-0.21	3
SOUTHWESTERN							
Blacksburg AG	86	47	65	-3	0.46	-0.31	1
Wytheville	85	45	63	-4	0.71	0.07	1
Saltville	84	48	66	-2	1.5	0.59	1
Richlands	84	46	65	3	1.28	0.37	1
SOUTHERN							
Stuart	87	54	69	-2	0.61	-0.36	3
Danville AG	90	57	70	-5	1.58	0.74	2
Chatham	87	52	66	-5	0.98	0.21	2
Martinsville	86	50	68	-4	1.58	0.74	3
SOUTHEASTERN							
Norfolk VA	86	59	70	-5	4.35	3.48	4
Oceana	83	57	70	-5	4.58	3.74	4
Emporia	87	56	69	-3	2.68	1.72	3
Newport News	87	55	70	-5	2.78	1.91	4

Departure from normal based on 1961-90 normals.

Precipitation Days=Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

WEATHER & CROPS**Week Of June 12 - 18, 2006**

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	9	22	32	31	6
Livestock	1	4	20	66	9
Other Hay	12	29	38	16	5
Alfalfa Hay	5	16	45	26	8
Corn	0	5	29	49	17
Soybeans	0	3	26	57	14
Winter Wheat	2	6	30	52	10
Barley	0	6	34	52	8
Flue-cured Tobacco	1	10	19	39	31
Burley Tobacco	0	0	1	79	20
Dark Fire-cured Tobacco	1	29	53	17	0
Peanuts	0	0	14	86	0
Cotton	0	12	31	57	0
All Apples	0	2	11	85	2
Peaches	0	5	30	63	2
Grapes	0	0	8	89	3

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT-WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Silked	3	3	0	2
Soybeans Planted	62	59	66	61
Soybeans Emerged	50	42	55	42
Winter Wheat Harvested	11	9	19	18
Barley Harvested	41	31	41	54
Tobacco, Burley Transplanted	99	91	98	92
Peanuts Pegged	0	0	1	3
Cotton Squaring	15	10	1	16
Summer Potatoes Harvested	0	0	0	1

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

CULPEPER COUNTY (Carl Stafford):

Scattered rainfall brought little relief to an impending drought. Farmers are coming up short on pasture, and hay yields are some 50% of normal. Livestock will soon be involuntarily sold due to feed shortage. Continuously grazed pastures are particularly troublesome in condition.

ROANOKE COUNTY (Jon Vest):

Scattered showers continue to reach some producers while others are getting increasingly dry.

HIGHLAND COUNTY (Rodney Leech):

Very light rain offered very little in regards to drought relief. Emerging corn is stressed. The hay crop is about 50% comparable to last year. Farmers are busy shearing sheep, making hay and repairing fence.

SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY (John Howe):

Alberto provided some rain to this area during the week, but not enough moisture to offset concerns of dryer-than-normal conditions over the past several months.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY, *cont.*

CAMPBELL COUNTY (Scott Reiter):

Rainfall varied across the county this week. June totals range from 0.4 - 4.0 inches. Some hay fields and pastures have 'greened' up but growth still falls severely short of cattle needs. Barley harvest is underway with average grain yields but the straw yield is short. Wheat harvest will start in the next few days. Tobacco producers are still irrigating as some have received little rainfall. Some tobacco and soybean fields have been replanted due to poor stands.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

Widespread rainfall was very beneficial to the corn crop. Amounts ranged from around 1 inch to over 2 inches, and corn on sandy soils in the areas where less rainfall was received was showing heat stress on Sunday. Barley harvest is almost complete with mostly good yields and test weights reported. Wheat harvest has just begun, and farmers should make good progress on harvest this week. Other activities included planting double crop soybeans, spraying herbicides on full season soybeans and baling straw.

WYTHE COUNTY (Joseph W. Massey):

Lack of rain is affecting grass re-growth in pastures and hayfields. Corn and grasses are basically in a holding stage, waiting for moisture and showing signs of stress. Spotty downpours have given a slight relief to certain sections of the county, but much of the county needs moisture badly. Streams are running below normal flows, and some wells are slow in recharging. Alfalfa hay production is slightly lower than normal. If moisture is not received soon, and in a fashion that allows it to soak into the ground, the corn crop will be reduced. At this stage, Wythe County is almost as far behind on rainfall as it was this time last year. From January 2005 to present we are approximately 15 inches below normal on precipitation.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY (Cynthia L. Gregg):

We are seeing quite a few trees showing stress in the area. Grape vines are showing disease pressure as well. Alberto dropped approximately 2 inches of rain and things are greening up some. Hay is still short with some producers getting a few fields that have decent hay yields in them. Some pastures are short but the rain hopefully will help with a flush of growth. Cattle will benefit from the pasture green up and growth as well.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY (C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.):

Alberto gave much needed rain to the county (1-2 inches). Tobacco cultivation is continuing with 35 to 40 percent layed-by. Growers have had to spray for budworms and hornworms over the past 10 days. Growers report higher incidence of budworms this year than last. Hay harvest is winding down with yields being a third to half of normal. Pastures are just keeping up with grazing pressure, so any extended dry period will result in feeding.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence):

Chesapeake had 5 inches of rain Wednesday which caused much field flooding. Fortunately, most of the standing water has dissipated into ditches or into the ground as of the weekend. Some crop damage occurred to soybeans and some corn appeared stunted in low lying areas. No wheat has been harvested due to high grain moisture and most recent rainfall. Prompt harvest is now critical to avoid loss of test weight and lodging. Many produce farmers have fresh summer produce starting to ripen for farm markets. The Chesapeake Farmers' Market opened this week.